



President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

A few things happening with VOMARC that are hopefully a sign of better things to come.

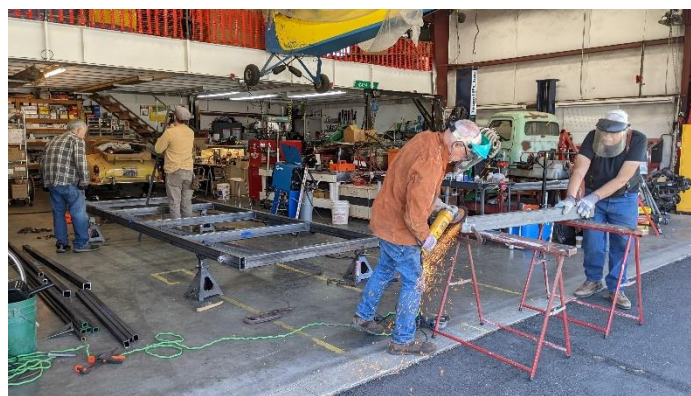
Hamfest 2022 planning is preparing to start in earnest. Darrel (WD6BOR) has already secured the facility at First Congregational Church on West Spain Street for April 23rd. The Hamfest flyer has been updated. We've gotten emails from a couple of vendors who wish to donate items for our raffle drawing. Our VE Liaison, Elizabeth (N6LY), has already scheduled a VE testing session for that date. Things continue to progress and we'll be talking more about this at the March meeting.

We'll have the volunteer signup sheets online in the near future. There will be jobs and slots available for all manner of work. Each position won't take up much time, nor require previous experience. By chipping in for a slot you are helping *your* club raise some needed funds for projects. What kind of projects? Well, how about a tower trailer?

Field Day 2022 is still months away, but there is some work being done for it as well. Under the direction of VOMARC station trustee Darrel (WD6BOR) the club is in the middle of construction of a new, robust, tower trailer. The new trailer will sport a 40 foot crank up tower

which can be hauled into place for assistance with emergency situations or, as luck would have it, to Field Day locations.

Several members pitched in for two work parties to construct our new tower trailer from bare steel. More work remains to be done, but much progress has been made in machining and welding its various pieces together. Darrel has quite the impressive workshop. It was great to see many longtime members and even some new faces turning up to contribute towards a common goal. Ideally, we'd like to be done with the tower trailer in time for Hamfest so we can show it off.



We're hoping to see even more of you at future work parties, Hamfest and Field Day. Who knows, maybe we'll even be discussing indoor meetings before too long.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, March 16, 2022, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed
later.

Topic: **How to Work Amateur Satellites with
Your HT**

Presenter: **Clint Bradford K6LCS**

Our speaker bio for this month:

Clint K6LCS has been a ham since 1994, and found his niche in the hobby: working amateur satellites with minimal equipment and telling ALL about it! He has served as a liaison between NASA, the ARISS team, and schools coordinating amateur radio contacts between the International Space Station and students (and orchestrated a wildly successful ARISS contact). Audiences have never found his presentation slides "wordy" nor dull. Trivia questions are included throughout the session - audiences are never bored.

For reference materials, Clint has created a support Web site at work-sat.com for all to use. The Web site has become a one-stop source for ALL the citations and equipment recommendations and software suggestions made in the presentation.

Professionally, Clint was sales manager for ADI / Premier Communications / Pryme, worked for a Motorola commercial two-way dealer a couple of years, and for Ham Radio Outlet a couple more. He resides in Jurupa Valley, California, with his wife, Karen, and their rescued lab, Freja.



Minutes of the Feb 16 Meeting

Members: KB6CLV (Simon), KG6QNT (Eileen), N7PIB (Sanford), KE6HID (Andrew), KA5WSS (Robert), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), W1EJ (Ed), WD6BOR (Darrel), W8EWL (John), NJ6E (Stan), WB6TMH (Mike), KD6FIL (Dave), Ryan Martin (No call sign in the data base)

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Motion Made and Seconded- Minutes Approved,

OFFICER REPORTS

Newsletter Editor - Eileen, KG6QNT

Please write up and submit everything you're doing. Photos are great—don't forget to tell us what we are looking at.

ACS Lead - Moe, KI6JNU

New form needs to be filled out for ACS.

VE Liaison - Elizabeth, N6LY

January 29 Test Session - 5 people tested - KE6HID passed his General - congratulations!

Upcoming sessions: Apr. 23rd (Hamfest), Jul. 30th and Oct. 29th.

Radio Officer - Mike, WB6TMH

1 student at the high school attending the electronics club. Doing well.

WEEKLY NET CONTROL

This month - Darrel, WD6BOR

Next month - Moe, KI6JNU

Tech licensing manuals for electronics club members

Trustee - Darrel, WD6BOR

Tower Trailer update - Some hardware purchased, got quotes on steel and axle. Prices have risen. Will be closer to \$3,000 instead of \$2,000. Would like to get this done before Hamfest. March 5th possible first work day.

MMS and approved to authorize additional \$1000 (\$3000 total) for the trailer.

HAMFEST - APR. 23RD. Sign up sheet available next month. Robert will post to Google Docs so people can sign up online.

Secretary/Treasurer - Dave, KD6FIL

Bank balance - \$5,442 with more invoices outstanding.

VICE PRESIDENT - ED, W1EJ

March 19th is the Loomis hamfest.

PRESIDENT - ROBERT, KA5WSS

Legacy box for VOMARC VHS tapes. *Still* waiting.

We crafted up reminder text for net control ops to be emailed once per month. Includes links to online scripts and check in sheets.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dues are due You can rejoin now on the VOMARC website.

Announcements

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING TOPIC: How to Work Amateur Satellites with Your HT - Clint Bradford K6LCS

MYSTERY BOX DRAWING - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now.

MEETING TOPIC - 2009 K4M Midway Atoll DXpedition Video - Note: N7PIB worked on Midway counting birds.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY, VOMARC VE Liaison

Our next testing session will be on Saturday, April 23, 2022, during VOMARC's Hamfest. Testing will begin at 10:00 AM, so

come early to enjoy the pancake breakfast and find some HAM Radio Gear.

This will be a test only session.

Even though it will be held during our Hamfest, reservations are still required, as the number of testers will be limited to 10. Sign up early, reserve your space.

Thinking of an upgrade? Sign up now.

See you on April 23rd.

California QSO Party Results

The California QSO Party 2021 results have been published.

Carl (N6TTV) placed second in the Single Op Unassisted category in Sonoma County. He worked 524 stations using only CW. In the process he made contact with 53 of California's 58 counties.

Frank (KG6N) took part in the WX6B multiop single transmitter team. The three operator group made 1,348 CW and Phone QSOs and swept all 58 California counties.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Field Day Rules Changes

There are a number of Field Day rules changes coming in 2022. Some are completely new and some are temporary pandemic changes that are being made permanent. A few of the highlights that might apply to or be of interest of VOMARC:

- Low power limit now at 100 watts instead of 150, putting it more in line with other events and contests.
- The high power category is removed from the rules. Everyone will be running 100 watts or less.
- For now, Class D (Home) stations can continue to work other Class D stations for points.

- Club aggregate scoring, where scores of individual stations are combined for a club score are now permanently part of the rules.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

NEW DIGITAL CONTEST AND RTTY CONTEST CHANGES

The ARRL announced a brand new digital mode contest to take place June 4-5 of this year. The ARRL Digital Contest will have a few unique features. All HF bands (though not WARC bands and 60M obviously) **and** 6M are included. All digital modes, with the exception of RTTY, are permissible. In addition, scoring is based on contact points (1 per QSO) and distance points (1 point for each 500 kilometers). The exchange includes grid squares to make the calculation possible.

Given the effectiveness in modern digital modes to go farther with lower power there will be only two power categories - QRP for 5 watts or less and Low Power for 100 watts or less.

Why exclude RTTY? After all, it's a digital mode, right? The existing ARRL RTTY Roundup, which started off as a RTTY only contest had morphed into a general digital contest. This was taking away from some of the RTTY activity, which was its original purpose.

A couple of good/interesting outcomes with this plan:

- The original ARRL RTTY Roundup returns to its roots
- Lower power stressed for modern digital modes
- Another contest in the summer with possible 6M sporadic E openings
- Distance scoring highlights and rewards going further with less

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

There was no VOMARC board meeting in March.

- I spent a few hours idling working stations during the ARRL DX Phone Contest from my modest home station. In the end I made 21 contacts that included five new band countries to go towards my DXCC Challenge numbers. My best DX was probably D4K and D4Z, both in the Cape Verde islands off of the African coast.

- When I entered my 10,000th QSO into my Ham Radio Deluxe logging software recently that contact just so happened to be with Carl (N6TTV) during one of the Slow Speed Test sessions.

- Shortwave radio is back! In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the BBC has resurrected some of its shortwave transmissions to beam news into the affected areas. Conflict within Ukraine and Russian censorship within its borders has sealed off outside views. Shortwave radio is a way to reach directly to listeners, bypassing government controls. Everything old is new again.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Parks on the Air Fun

Kevin (K6YD) and I have been enjoying the Spring weather, getting out to several parks, some new, some repeats, and activating for "Parks on the Air".

It has been nice to make QSOs with several club members. Sanford (N7PIB) is a regular, helping him to up his park count. We have also made contacts with ED (W1EJ).

Some new to us Parks this past month are Brannan Island, out in the Delta, a couple parks in the Pacifica area and a couple in the Half Moon Bay area. Some of our regular visits include Petaluma Adobe, Point Reyes General Vallejo's Home, and Sonoma Coast.

We have tried out several new set-ups and different bands. Lately, we have been making quite a few QSOs on 17M and 15M, as well as our normal 20M and 40M.

It has been a lot of fun and getting to have some regular contacts.

Most days have been very nice, warm and sunny, however we had one super windy day and one where the fog blew in for about a half hour, then out again. All good tests for our antennas.

See some pictures below.

—Submitted by Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey N6LY

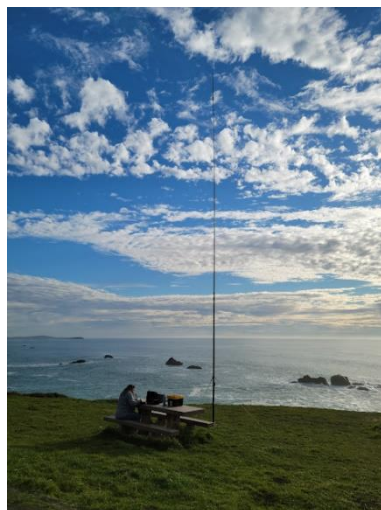


Montara State Beach



General Vallejo's Home

Sonoma Coast



The State of The Trailer

—By Darrell WD6BOR, Photos by Robert KA5WSS

The VOMARC antenna trailer is progressing nicely. In two work parties at my hangar, plus some time in my shop, all the steel was cut and drilled and the base frame almost completely welded together. The next session will consist of finishing the welding on the base, installing the tongue, springs and axle, and turning the whole thing over on its wheels so we can start welding together the superstructure and mast that will allow the tower to be raised and secured. I'll be



working in my shop before the next work party to finish fabricating some of the other parts for the trailer.

The trailer is designed around Jim Hill, K6UUW's, sectional crank-up tower. It is unusual in that it is built in ten foot sections instead of the usual twenty foot sections. This made the design of the trailer much easier since we didn't need to deal with a longer nested tower, which would have involved cantilevering the tower on the trailer. If you've ever been to Pacificon, you will have seen the trailer belonging to the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. I borrowed liberally from their design for our trailer.

My goal was to come up with a trailer that can be towed to a site and set up within about fifteen minutes. I expect it will take more time to assemble the beam antenna than to get the trailer ready for raising the antenna. It will use

outriggers with a fifteen foot radius to stabilize it without guying, except in high wind conditions.

I am hoping that we can get the majority of the welding completed in two more four hour work sessions. We will then need to clean and paint the trailer, install expanded metal decking, Jim's old rotator and an aluminum cross bed tool box I bought for equipment storage, and then mount the tower. We should have everything completed in time to show the trailer at the VOMARC hamfest at the end of April.

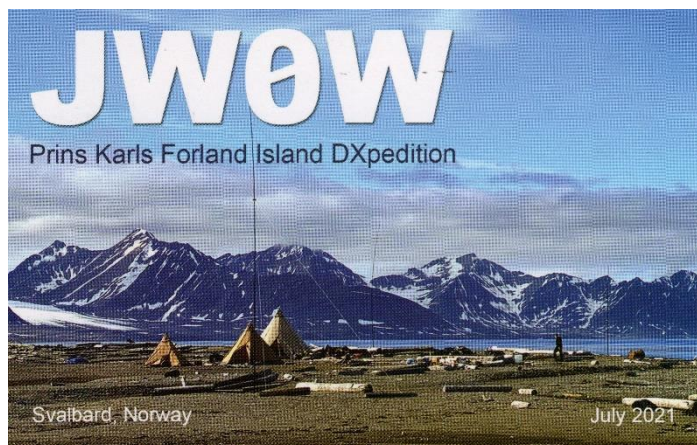
Our old Harbor Freight based antenna trailer has served up well for many, many years, but is in need of renovation. I'm hoping that a VOMARC member or another club can refurbish it and give it new life. I'm also hoping that VOMARC will get many, many more years of use from this new trailer. I feel it will be a valuable resource for both our own club events as well as emergency communications in the event of a disaster.

I am planning on the next work party on Sunday, March 19 from 11 am to 3 pm, with sessions on the following Sundays as needed.

I would like to install lettering on the trailer dedicating it to Jim in honor of his many selfless years of service to VOMARC.



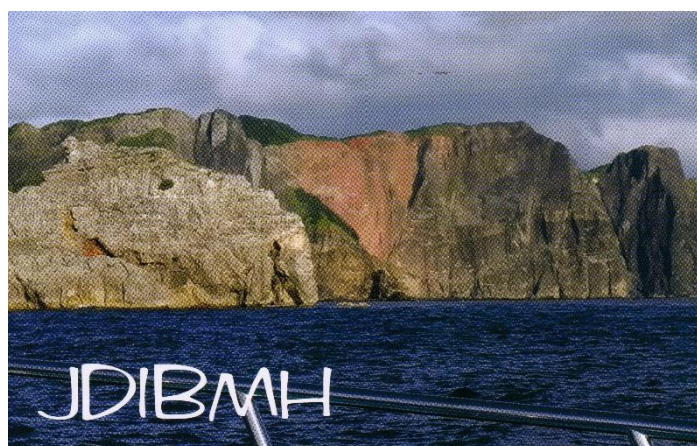
QSL Card Inbox



Svalbard is a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean and is one of the most northerly inhabited areas in the world.



I worked A71AM in Qatar on 20M SSB for another All Time New One (ATNO). Qatar is in the Persian Gulf.



This card confirms my FT8 QSO on 17M with JD1BMH on the Ogasawara Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.